

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

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R 101309Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4816

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DIPLOMAT SUGGESTS EARLY BREZHNEV VISIT
TO PARIS UNLIKELY

REF: (A) PARIS 20115, (B) PARIS 20472, (C) PARIS 21970
(NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE ROUTINE CALL SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR
STOUPICHINE REINFORCED OUR IMPRESSION (REFTELS) THAT
SOVIETS DO NOT EXPECT BREZHNEV TO VISIT FRANCE THIS YEAR.

2. ALTHOUGH STOUPICHINE REITERATED BREZHNEV VISIT WAS
AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE, HE PUT GREATER EMPHASIS ON FACT
THAT DATE HAD STILL NOT BEEN SET. VISIT THIS YEAR WAS
THEREFORE INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY. WHEN ASKED WHY, HE
REPLIED WITH SURPRISING BLUNTNESS: "TO HAVE A VISIT
YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS."

3. INTERESTINGLY, STOUPICHINE WAS NOT TOO MUCH MORE
POSITIVE ABOUT PROSPECTS OF BREZHNEV VISIT IN FIRST PART
OF NEXT YEAR, POINTING OUT THAT, AS IN CASE OF US-
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SOVIET RELATIONS, FLURRY OF SENIOR VISITS IS NO LONGER

AS NECESSARY AFTER CERTAIN INITIAL UNDERSTANDINGS HAVE BEEN REACHED. STRETCH-OUT OF TIME BETWEEN SENIOR VISITS IS THEREFORE TO BE EXPECTED. IF FRENCH PRESS SHOULD INTERPRET THIS AS SOVIET DECISION TO DE-EMPHASIZE RELATIONS WITH GISCARD, THAT, STOUPICHINE SAID, WOULD BE INACCURATE BUT COULD NOT BE HELPED. SOVIETS, AT LEAST ON LEVEL OF STATE POLICY, WOULD REMAIN SCRUPULOUSLY EVEN-HANDED.

4. STOUPICHINE ALSO ALLUDED BRIEFLY TO ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITY OF A GISCARD "WORKING VISIT" TO MOSCOW IN RETURN FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO RAMBOUILLET, BUT DID NOT SEEM CONVINCED THAT WAS MORE THAN THEORETICAL HYPOTHESIS.

5. COMMENT: STOUPICHINE'S REACTIONS TEND TO CONFIRM ENSEMBLE OF IMPRESSIONS REPORTED REFTELS AND ELSEWHERE THAT, FOR PRESENT AT LEAST, SENIOR-LEVEL FRENCH-SOVIET CONTACTS, WHILE SATISFACTORY, ARE AT A CERTAIN IMPASSE. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE TO WHAT EXTENT NEW FRENCH FONMIN MAY TRY TO MOVE THIS SITUATION OFF DEAD CENTER. OUR TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT GOF MOST LIKELY TO LET MATTERS DEVELOP ROUTINELY FOR THE PRESENT.
RUSH

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